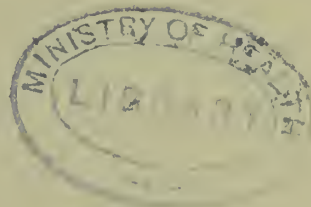


RURAL DISTRICT OF DORCHESTER

ANNUAL REPORT



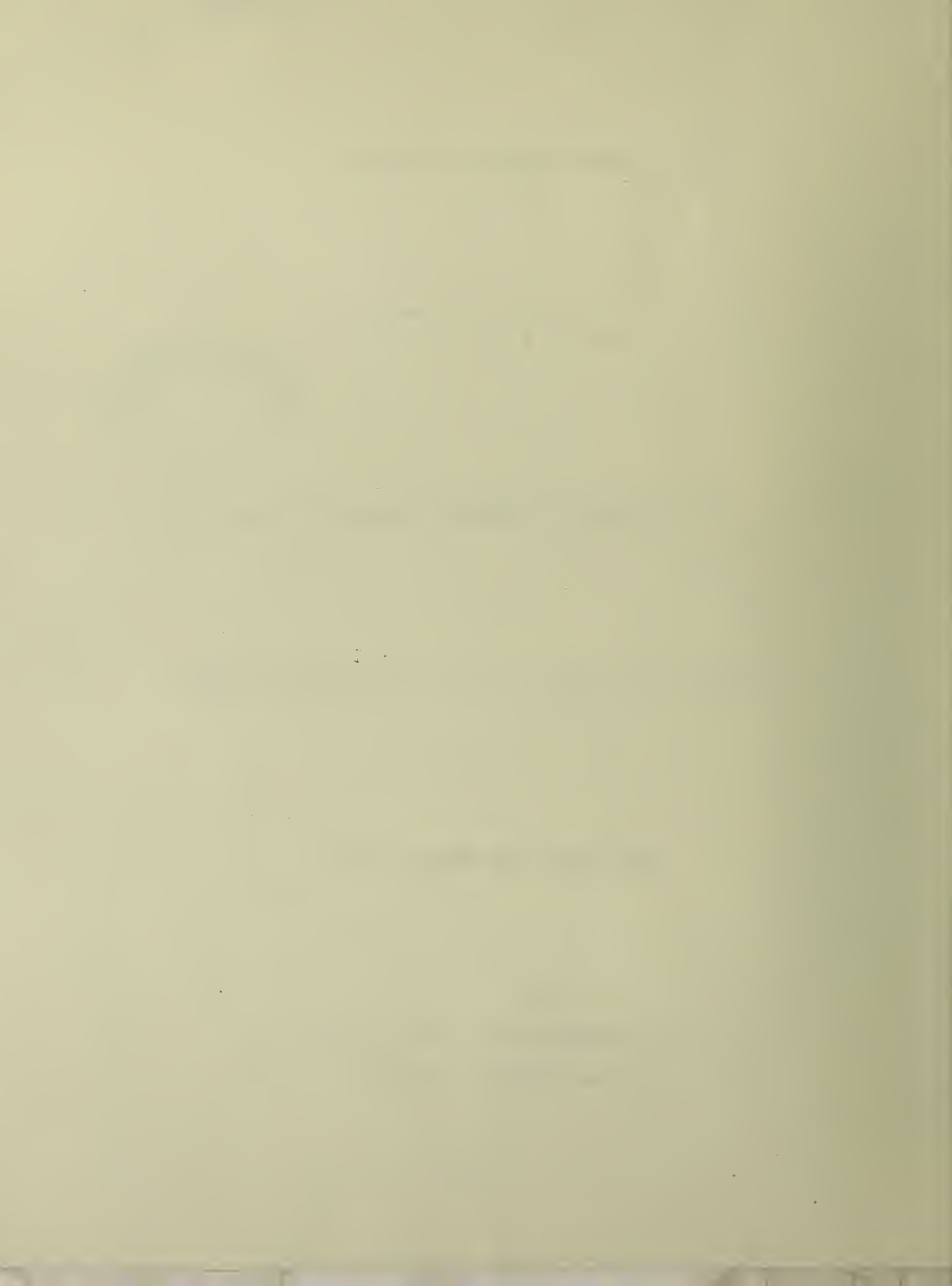
ON THE HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION OF THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF DORCHESTER

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1953

I. B. LAWRENCE, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. R. M. E. Williams (Chairman)

Mr. H. W. Haward (Vice-Chairman)

Gen. Floyer-Acland	Miss C. M. Brymer
Mr. E. A. Burt	Col. L. M. St. G. Carey
Mr. F. Guppy, J.P.	Mr. E. Hanford
Mr. J. Wyndham Hull, J.P.	Mr. A. W. Kellaway
Comdr. A. V. de Labalmondiere	Mr. P. O. Lovell
Dr. E. W. Mann	Mr. G. E. Masters
Mr. J. C. Pettifer	Mrs. A. M. Radclyffe
Mr. E. A. Sparks	Mr. A. P. Stone
Mrs. N. Stroud	Mr. A. W. Tizard
Major R. G. Warren	Mr. A. E. Welstead

STAFF - PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health (Combined Appointment)

I. B. Lawrence, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors:

Senior - N. Rawlins, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional - F. C. Powell, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Pupil - S. A. W. Brown

Clerical Staff:

Miss K. R. Brooks

C. E. Kingsbury

Miss S. C. Burgess (Combined Appointment)

Rodent Operators:

E. Buddon

A. J. Watson

County Clinic,
Glyde Path Road,
Dorchester.

To The Chairman and Members of

The Dorchester Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The notification of Infectious Diseases during the year was remarkably low, except for Measles (149 cases compared with 31 the previous year) and Dysentery Sonne type (23 cases in comparison with 10 last year). No deaths were reported from Measles or Dysentery.

We were also fortunate in having only five cases of Infantile Paralysis (Polio) out of a total of 151 cases in the whole County. Of these five, two were Paralytic and three non-Paralytic. No deaths occurred from cases in 1953, but one death occurred in a person who was notified in the previous year.

It is gratifying to see from the tuberculosis table that only three cases of tuberculosis were reported during the year, (1952 twelve) all were non-pulmonary in type. Only one death occurred from tuberculosis compared with four in 1952.

Housing and camping take up a great deal of the time of our staff and we feel that as regards camping we have achieved a great deal, and but for an unavoidable delay, we would have solved our problem.

During the year a report was made to the Council on the Health aspects of sub-standard houses.

The Council were perturbed over the delay in the consent of the Ministry to carry out a drainage scheme for the parish of Chickercell and I submitted on their behalf, a report to the Ministry of Health on the potential danger to health due to the delay.

A precis of the memorandum "Accidents in the Home" was made to the Council and advising the provision of fireguards in Council Houses.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their appreciation of our difficulties, especially during the absence of our Senior Sanitary Inspector through illness, also the Public Health Department Staff for their unfailing help and readiness to undertake extra work if required.

Your obedient Servant,

I. B. Lawrence

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures for 1952 shown in brackets)

Area (land and internal water)	...	...	128,592 acres
Resident Population	...	...	17,490 (17,510)
No. of houses inhabited at the end of 1953	...	...	4,977 (4,885)
Rateable Value	...	...	£81,503 (£81,055)
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	£335 (£330)

VITAL STATISTICS

Population - Estimate for Births and Deaths 17,490

Comparability Factor	Births	1.18
	Deaths	.87

<u>Births:</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	130	139	269
Illegitimate	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>19</u>
Total	141	147	288 (259)
	—	—	—

Still Births:

Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
Total	5	2	7 (8)
	—	—	—

<u>Deaths - All causes</u>	104	106	210 (184)
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Deaths of Infants under 1 year (Infant Mortality)

Legitimate	4	6	10
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	6	6	12 (4)
	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks (NeoNatal Mortality)

Legitimate	2	3	5
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	4	3	7 (4)
	—	—	—

Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	19.3	(14.7)
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	15.5	(15.3)
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	10.35	(10.3)
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	11.4	(11.3)
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	41.6	(15.4)
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	26.8	(27.6)

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	...	...	1	-	1	
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	-	-	-
Diphtheria	...	...	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-	-
Meningitis	...	...	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	-	-	-
Measles	...	...	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases			1	1	2	
Cancer of lung, bronchus	...	...	5	1	6	(3)
Cancer of stomach	...	...	-	3	3	(6)
Cancer of breast	...	...	-	3	3	(-)
Cancer of uterus	...	...	-	2	2	(2)
Other Cancers	...	...	13	8	21	(10)
Acute Anaemia	...	...	-	-	-	(6)
Diabetes	...	...	1	1	2	
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	10	15	25	(36)
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	11	3	14	(21)
High Blood Pressure with heart disease			2	-	2	(8)
Other Heart Disease	...	...	28	45	73	(30)
Other circulatory disease	...	...	1	1	2	
Influenza	...	...	2	-	2	(1)
Pneumonia	...	...	5	6	11	(6)
Bronchitis	...	...	4	3	7	(10)
Other diseases of respiratory system			1	-	1	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	-	1	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	-	2	2	
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	-	1	1	
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	...	...	2	1	3	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases			7	9	16	(22)
Motor Vehicle accidents	...	...	3	-	3	(2)
All other accidents	...	...	4	1	5	(-)
Suicide	...	...	2	-	2	(2)
All Causes	...	...	104	106	210	(184)

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table summarises the notifications of Infectious Diseases made during the year :-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>										<u>A.U.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
	<u>0-</u>	<u>1-</u>	<u>3-</u>	<u>5-</u>	<u>10-</u>	<u>15-</u>	<u>25-</u>	<u>45-</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>admitted</u>				
												<u>to</u>		
												<u>Hospital</u>		
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	10	3	-	
Whooping Cough	1	5	7	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	17		-	
Measles	1	23	19	70	31	2	2	1	-	-	149		-	
Pneumonia	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	2	1	-	7+		11	
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Infantile Paralysis	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	5	5	-	
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	8	9	-	23		-	
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

It is to be noted that of the seventeen cases of Whooping Cough, fifteen occurred in children under five years old and no deaths occurred.

No cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year.

During 1953 the sunshine hours were the lowest for three years although it was also the driest for the last four years.

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 1953 the following cases and deaths from tuberculosis were notified :- (figures for 1952 shown in brackets)

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory Male	Respiratory Female	Non-Respiratory Male	Non-Respiratory Female	Respiratory Male	Respiratory Female	Non-Respiratory Male	Non-Respiratory Female
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<hr/>								
TOTALS ..	-(7)	-(4)	2(-)	1(1)	1(2)	-(-)	-(-)	-(-)
<hr/>								

AMBULANCE SERVICES

To call the Ambulance for routine work, ring Dorchester 420, in an emergency ask the exchange for Ambulance. Always state urgency and nature of case and full address and which Ambulance is required.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Two cases were seen under this Act, no action was required. In the first case a home-help was provided and eventually the person went into hospital voluntarily.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The average help available for the Borough & Rural District of Dorchester is two part-time and three spare-time helpers.

PUBLIC CLEANSING & REFUSE

No change has occurred in the disposal of refuse in the area.

HOUSING

<u>Council Houses</u>	<u>In process of erection.</u>	<u>Completed 1953</u>	<u>Completed since War.</u>
Temporary --			
Permanent --			
Traditional Type	72	49	209
Non-Traditional Type	-	-	60
Old Persons Bungalows	8	-	8
Hutted Camps (4 Demolished)			92
<hr/>			
No. of older Council Houses			199
Total no. of Council Houses			476

Forty-nine Council houses were completed during the year, this is the highest number completed since the war in any year. I believe our target could be increased and obviously must, to replace the number of unfit houses within a reasonable time.

WATER SUPPLIES

A new Reservoir has been completed at Alton Pancras. Extensions of mains were made to the villages of Ringstead and Bockhampton.

SEWERAGE

As reported last year, the small sewage works require constant attention to maintain them in good condition. Two of the larger villages still await Ministry sanction before a proper sewage disposal works can be provided.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Dr. T. V. Cooper of the County Laboratory and Dr. G. H. Tee of the Public Health Laboratory have been most helpful during the year, and I appreciate their ready co-operation.

The following is a table of specimens submitted to the Laboratories:

Nose & Throat Swabs	...	...	50	Milk	...	...	...	...	81
Faeces	...	...	40	Miscellaneous	..	...	...	...	6
Blood	...	...	20	Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	80
Ringworm	...	...	7	Water	...	...	...	...	238

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1953.

The following is a report and some observations on the Technical and Non-Medical work of your Public Health Department as carried out by your Sanitary Officers during 1953.

N. RAWLINS.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES ETC.

(a) Qualifications :-

(i) Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute (Sydney).

The Meat and other Foods Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute (London).

(ii) Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board.

The Meat and other Foods Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

(b) Experience.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector received his early training in Public Health work (over a period of five years) in the Metropolitan area of Sydney, New South Wales. The two appointments held in England have been over a continuous period of twenty-three years with two Rural District Councils.

The Additional Sanitary Inspector trained as a pupil Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor between 1936 and 1939, served as a Sanitary Inspector in H.M. Forces during 1939 - 1944, and has held continuous appointments as an Additional Sanitary Inspector since 1945.

(c) Duties.

The Sanitary Officers carry out all the duties which are applicable to their Offices as set out in Article 28 of the Sanitary Officers Regulations.

In addition the following duties are also carried out :-

The control and administration of :-

1. The refuse collection and disposal service.
2. The nightsoil collection and disposal service.
3. Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948 (Burial of the Dead).
4. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.
5. Investigation of applicants for tenancies of Council Houses.
6. Administration of Building Byelaws in connection with the provision of drainage works and the connection to the Council's sewers in Maiden Newton and Sydling.

d) Committees.

All the Committees of this Council with the exception of the Civil Defence Committee are concerned directly or indirectly with matters affecting Public Health.

HOUSING.

Housing administration is a most difficult problem and is largely so as it is an economic one.

Rents of cottages are generally very low, in one case found the rent was one shilling per week, and in a considerable number of others the rents did not exceed six shillings per week, from which the owner often paid rates.

Under such conditions, it is not difficult to realise why there are so many defective cottages, and the administrative difficulties which arise when the cost of the necessary repairs have to be considered. The position of many of the owners of these low-rented and defective properties is most unenviable.

The majority of the houses inspected during the year under the Housing Act are included in two areas which it is proposed to deal with as Clearance Areas, but official action has been temporarily postponed until the new Housing Rents and Repairs Act becomes law in order that the position may, if necessary, be reviewed, should the provisions of this new Act make it necessary. Other houses inspected have been reported to the Council for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

The question of these houses falling within Section 11 is, in this area, a major problem, owing to the difficulty of finding alternative accommodation for the tenants. In some cases the Council has postponed official action until the property becomes vacant, and in others informal first aid repairs have been asked for where normally official action would have been recommended. Until the long list of applicants for Council Houses has been considerably reduced, no immediate alleviation of this problem is foreseen, and the large number of houses which it is considered are unfit for human habitation remain occupied.

Inspections and visits carried out :-

No. of houses inspected	--	(a) Under Housing Act	33
		(b) Under Public Health Act	26
No. of return visits	--	(a) Under Housing Act	130
		(b) Under Public Health Act	175
No. of visits in connection with cases of overcrowding			4
Miscellaneous housing visits, including inspections in connection with applications for Council Houses			112

Subsequent action taken and general progress :-

Summary of notices served	- Informal	(a) Under Housing Act	-
		(b) Under Public Health Act	20
	- Statutory	(a) Under Housing Act (Demolition Orders)	9
		(b) Under Public Health Act	6
Houses rendered fit after service of notices, including those in respect of which notices were served in previous years	- Informal	(a) Under Housing Act	1
		(b) Under Public Health Act	5
	- Statutory	(a) Under Housing Act	1
		(b) Under Public Health Act	9
No. of houses demolished during the year			14
No. of houses in respect of which Undertakings under Section 11 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, were accepted by the Council			6

WATER SUPPLY.

As far as possible with the time available, regular samples have been taken from month to month of the main supplies in the area.

These consist of seven Statutory Undertakings, covering the greater part of forty of the fifty-eight Parishes, and nineteen Private supplies all serving the whole of, or parts of the other Parishes.

Results generally were very satisfactory with only two cases of unsatisfactory samples from the Statutory Undertakings' supplies. In one case a repeat sample a few days later was satisfactory, and in the other case the trouble was traced to pollution of the reservoir by children.

The majority of the unsatisfactory samples from Private supplies came from individual wells, but two supplies covering a large number of consumers also gave trouble. Regular chlorination has been instituted in one instance, and consultations with a new owner who has recently taken over the other supply are taking place from which it is hoped to find a satisfactory solution.

Investigations into complaints received of unsatisfactory or insufficient water supplies have been made, following which notices concerning the premises have been served requiring either connection to a main supply or improvements to the existing facilities. As a result of notices served during this and previous years, eleven premises have now been connected to a piped supply, and improvements affecting the supply at two other houses have been carried out.

Sampling :-

Total number of samples taken	-	(a) From Statutory Undertakings	109
		(b) From Private Supplies	129
Results	- Bacteriological examination	(a) Satisfactory	202
		(b) Suspicious	12
		(c) Unsatisfactory	20
	- Chemical Analysis	(a) Satisfactory	4
		(b) Unsatisfactory	-

Chlorinating plants in use :-

Parish	Address	Owner	Type.
Abbotsbury.	Coastguard Cottages.	Mr. A.H. Donnelly.	Belco.
Buckland Newton.	Pumping Station, Springrove.	Sturminster Rural District Council.	Candy.
Cattistock.	Pumping Station.	Yeovil Corporation Waterworks.	Bell.
Charminster.	Forston Pumping Station.	Dorchester Rural District Council.	Wallace & Tiernan.
Maiden Newton.	Pumping Station.	Dorchester Rural District Council.	Wallace & Tiernan.
Melcombe Horsey.	Pumphouse, Albert Field Springs	Colonel C.H. Woodhouse.	Wallace & Tiernan.
Minterne Magna.	Hurdley Moor Farm.	Mr. J.K. Crocker.	Belco.
Piddletrenthide.	Spring near Rockpit Dairy, Plush.	Mr. H.M.J. Barnard Hankey.	Belco.
Stinsford.	Kingston Maurward Farm Institute.	Dorset County Council.	Wallace & Tiernan.
Tincleton.	Clyffe House.	Dorset County Council.	Wallace & Tiernan.
Toller Porcorum.	Higher Kingcombe.	Mr. C.A. Crocker.	Belco.
West Knighton.	Empool Waterworks.	Weymouth Waterworks.	Paterson Chloronome.
Winterborne Monkton.	Pumping Station.	Mr. W.R. Elworthy.	Bell.

Sampling :-

Milk -

Samples have been taken regularly throughout the year from all the dairies in the area with fairly satisfactory results. The majority of the unsatisfactory samples were concerned with one particular dairy with which the health department had been dealing for some time with a view to its being brought up to a satisfactory standard. Apart from samples of milk, churn washings and bottle rinsings were taken from the dairy with mixed results, following representations to the owner, a large number of improvements to the buildings were carried out and a pasteurisation plant installed. It is expected that with the completion of all the works of improvement, no further unsatisfactory samples will be forthcoming.

Milk Samples :-

Number of samples taken	81
Passed Methylene Blue Test	70
Failed Methylene Blue Test	11
Failed Phosphatase Test after passing Methylene Blue Test	1

Churn Washings :-

Number of samples taken	25
Satisfactory	13
Fairly satisfactory	3
Unsatisfactory	9

Bottle Rinsings :-

Number of samples taken	42
Satisfactory	18
Fairly satisfactory	6
Unsatisfactory	18

Ice Cream & Ice Lollies -

These products are not produced in this area, but are brought in from outside sources, being largely produced by well-known firms.

Sampling in this sphere has been considerably increased this year. With regard to ice cream, repeat samples were taken in all those instances where the original sample had been placed in the lower grade. In one case the cause of the low grade was attributed to the length of time which the stock had been held by the retailer, and in two other cases, attention had to be drawn to the condition of the retailer's conservator. The question of a number of Grade 3 samples from the same manufacturer was taken up with the firm concerned who on investigation, traced the trouble to heat resisting *Bacillus* sp in the milk powder.

The ice lolly samples were found to be generally satisfactory, with the exception of those produced by one particular firm, where some very bad samples, showing a high faecal coli count were obtained. The matter was raised with the firm concerned, and also with the Public Health Department in whose area the factory was situated, and who had apparently been dealing the premises for some time. It is hoped that their investigations will have traced and dealt with the cause of the trouble.

Ice Cream Samples :-

Placed in Provisional Grade 1	39
Placed in Provisional Grade 2	12
Placed in Provisional Grade 3	10
Placed in Provisional Grade 4	-

Ice Lolly Samples :-

Satisfactory	7
Fairly satisfactory	3
Unsatisfactory	9

(b) Food Premises :-

There are a total number of 151 in the area, comprising :-

Bakchouses	11
Butchers	6
Grocers & Post Offices etc. also selling Foodstuffs	50
Fried Fish Premises	2
Hotels, Public Houses and Guest Houses	61
School Canteens	10

Dairies	3
Food Factories	1
Cafes and Snack Bars	7

Of these premises, 48 are Registered under Section 14 of the Food Drugs Act, 1938, and 3 under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Owing to the scattered nature of the area and the number of premises involved, it has not been possible to keep to the routine schedule of inspection proposed, but 174 visits have been made, and resulting from these 29 written notices have been served on the persons concerned requiring improvements to be carried out.

In connection with these notices, difficulty has often been encountered in some of the grocers' shops with the lack of alternative storage facilities whilst re-decoration is taking place, and several moves have often been necessary before the works have been completed.

During the year, 10 notices have been complied with, and in a large number of other cases, a considerable amount of the works required have been carried out, including the installation of hot water supplies.

b) Food Condemnation :-

The surrender has been accepted during the year of a small quantity of fresh meat and tinned foodstuffs amounting to 257 pounds of fresh meat and 7 pounds 14 ounces of tinned foodstuffs. In addition a consignment of imported Danish diced pork meat amounting to 2 cwt. 1 quarter was also condemned.

Fresh meat has been disposed of through the Government Slaughterhouse at Dorchester, and tinned goods by burial at the Council's refuse tip.

b) Knacker's Yards :-

The two premises licensed in the area have been satisfactorily conducted during the year. Minor works were carried out at one premise following request by the Department.

b) Food Poisoning :-

Two outbreaks of suspected food poisoning were investigated at the request of the Medical Officer of Health, but in both cases the attacks quickly subsided and no definite decision was reached. A lack of sufficient samples of food taken prior to the attacks made it very difficult to carry out the investigation satisfactorily.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 & 1948.

(a) Factories :-

	No. on Register.	Inspect- ions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	52	3		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is to be enforced by the Local Authority.	97	43	6	
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	3			
Total	152	46	6	

Cases in which defects were found :-

	Referred			
	To H.M.	By H.M.	Inspector.	Prosec- utions.
Found Remedied	Inspector.	Inspector.		

Want of cleanliness (S.1)

Overcrowding (S.2)

Unreasonable temperature (S.3)

Inadequate ventilation (S.4)

Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)

Sanitary conveniences (S.7)

(a) Insufficient	3	2		
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	1		1
(c) Not separate for sexes				

Other offences against the Act

Total	6	3		1
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(b) Outworkers :-

No. of Outworkers employed by :-	Net Manufacturers	62
	Glove Manufacturers	7
	Knitwear Manufacturers	54
	<u>Total</u>	<u>123</u>

Camping control, both holiday and residential, is now a major problem in this area and the necessary supervision has required a large proportion of our Public Health Officers' time.

As was stated in my last report, the new camping conditions adopted by the Council came into operation on the 1st January, and a much more stringent control is now possible of all sites, particularly those used for both holiday and residential use. Considerable progress has been made during this first year, bearing in mind the works involved regarding sanitation and drainage, and the difficulty of alternative accommodation for some of the residents displaced from unsatisfactory caravans, or for caravans where the permitted number was reduced.

Of the nine major sites now licensed, blocks of sanitary conveniences have been erected and drainage systems installed in seven cases, and plans embodying these proposals have also been received in respect of one other site. In one further instance, plans have been approved, and the site will no doubt be developed and licensed before the commencement of the next season.

With regard to individual caravans used for residential purposes, amenities are now being provided which were not hitherto required.

It is hoped that before the commencement of the next summer season, the majority of the standard conditions will have been complied with, and with the co-operation of the site owners concerned, that camping in this area will be a much more satisfactory proposition.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

Progress towards the connection of properties to the recently constructed sewers at Maiden Newton and Sydling St. Nicholas has been slow, a total of twenty-eight at Maiden Newton and thirty-four at Sydling St. Nicholas now being connected. A policy of encouragement rather than statutory notice action has been followed, but this latter form of action requiring such connection will now have to be resorted to in order to make better progress in this work.

In a large number of cases, the lack of capital by the Landlord presents a very difficult problem, and the type of premises which are either in a poor state of repair generally, or which bring in a very small rent, make the expense of providing drainage etc. a most uneconomical proposition.

Following the consideration by the Public Health Committee of the money required for ditching operations at Chickwerell, further representation has been made by the Medical Officer of Health to the Ministry for sanction to proceed with the sewerage scheme, already prepared and approved, for this Parish. The majority of the drainage in this village eventually finds its way into one of the three main ditches, which in reality are no more than open sewers. A considerable amount of work was undertaken by the Council here during this last year, and a big improvement effected in two of the ditches, but this can only be regarded as a temporary measure, and however much the Council spends in this direction, it will not assist in any way in dealing with the most unsatisfactory drainage situation in the district.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES (CONTD).

It is most regrettable that permission to commence work on the sewerage schemes for Chickerell and Cerne Abbas submitted to the Ministry some time ago has not yet been received. These villages urgently require proper foul drainage systems. The delay in commencing these works is also delaying necessary and similar schemes for other villages.

RODENT CONTROL (RATS & MICE).

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, Section 2, states that it shall be the duty of every Local Authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure as far as possible that their district is kept free from rats and mice and in particular to :-

- (a) Carry out from time to time such inspections as may be necessary for the purpose.
- (b) Destroy rats and mice on land of which they are the Occupiers etc.
- (c) Enforce the duties of owners and occupiers etc.

To carry out their responsibilities under this Act, the Council have two Rodent Operators who are attached to your Public Health Department. Each Operator has been given a defined area of operation, i.e. approximately half of the area, and in this way the whole of the district is visited approximately at least once per year. Additional visits are however made on receipt of complaints, and in accordance with the Council's decision all private houses are given a free service for rats and mice destruction.

The work carried out by the Rodent Operators during 1953 is shown in the following summary :-

	Local Authority.	Dwelling houses.	Agric- ultural.	All others.	Total.
Total number of properties in the area.	21	5039	470	477	6007
No. of properties inspected as a result of (a) Notification		72	4	2	78
(b) Survey or otherwise	6	3382	437	208	4033
No. of properties found to be infested (a) Major infestation	1	4	6	3	14
(b) Minor infestation	3	420	48	12	483
No. of properties found to be seriously infested by Mice		3	1		4

	Local Authority.	Dwelling houses.	Agric- ultural.	All others.	Total.
No. of infested properties created by Local Authority	5	466	14	13	498
No. of notices served under Section 4 for treatment			32	5	37
No. of notices complied with (a) Treatment			27	1	28
(b) Rat-proofing etc.		6		1	7

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION & DISPOSAL.

The collection and disposal of nightsoil from private houses in parts of the Chickerell and Charminster Parishes has been considerably increased during the year, following requests by the Chickerell Parish Council, and surveys in that Parish and the Parish of Charminster carried out by your Public Health officers.

This service is carried out by a private firm under contract to this Council.

The numbers of houses in these schemes has been increased to :-

Charminster - 29 to 63.
Chickerell - 21 to 57.

REFUSE & SALVAGE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL.

a) Refuse :-

It has become increasingly obvious during the year that in addition to the new houses now requiring a refuse collection, residents generally are making more use of the Council's service than has previously been the case.

The effect on the mileage of the vehicle and the hours worked by the employees is quite considerable, and with the present vehicle and number of employees, only a consistent amount of overtime enables the service to be completed. Some eighteen and a half thousand miles was covered during the year by the vehicle whilst carrying out the fortnightly service, and approximately one thousand hours overtime worked by the employees on the collection. The time is foreseen in the near future when the service will not be able to be continued with the existing facilities.

The policy of the Council has been to collect from the verge of a maintained highway only, but following numerous requests from residents in areas served by privately maintained roads for a refuse collection, the position was investigated, but after considering the financial liability which any extension of the service would entail, the Council decided to adhere to their previous policy of making the collection from maintained highways only. Maps of the area were prepared showing the maintained roads defined in colour and on which this service operated.

REFUSE & SALVAGE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL (CONTD).

(b) Salvage :-

The salvage of material which could be disposed of to some financial gain continued during the year and some £139 was realised. The position regarding the sale of waste paper, from which quite a substantial income has been obtained in the past, has continued to be difficult during the greater part of the year, and it has only been during the last few months that the position seems to have eased slightly and one or two loads have been disposed of. It is hoped that the position will continue to improve in order that regular sales can be effected.

The following material has been salvaged and disposed of :-

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts</u>	<u>Qrs</u>	<u>Lbs</u>	<u>£.</u>	<u>S.</u>	<u>D.</u>
Waste Paper	24.	0.	0.	0.	100.	13.	3.
Light & Heavy Scrap	95.	6.	0.	0.	17.	19.	11.
Rags and bagging		9.	3.	16.	11.	9.	2.
Brass			3.	6.	2.	11.	6.
Aluminium			1.	22.	1.	9.	7.
Bones		1.	0.	0.		8.	0.
Tyres & Tubes		19.	0.	0.	4.	8.	4.
Flock			1.	0.		1.	0.
<u>Totals -</u>	<u>120.</u>	<u>17.</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>16.</u>	<u>£139.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>9.</u>



